



# **Fish and Wildlife Commission**

2022/2023 hunting regulation proposals for  
public comment

# Overarching Goals

- Simplify regulations
- FWP biologists focus on biology/science
- Social issues handled at the Fish and Wildlife Commission level
- Fish and Wildlife Commission is the decision-maker for both social and biological aspects of proposals
- These meetings are to supply information and answer questions

# Submitting comments to proposals

Comments will be accepted until **Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at 5 p.m.**

How to comment:

- **Online:** <https://fwp.mt.gov/>
- **By email:** [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov)



## OUTSIDE, TODAY

Get the inside scoop on outdoor news and

River Recreation

Apply online for the annual Smith River float permit lottery.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Season Setting

2022/2023 hunting regulations proposals are available for public comment through Jan. 21

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)

Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD testing, sampling stations, carcass disposal and more information for hunters.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Hunting

Late elk shoulder seasons are happening now. Refer to regulations for specific hunting district details.

[LEARN MORE >](#)





About FWP > Public Comment Opportunities

## PROPOSED HUNTING REGULATION CHANGES



The Fish and Wildlife Commission approved 2022/2023 hunting regulations proposals for public comment at its meeting on Dec. 14. Below you will find all the proposals open for public comment. Your input is critical. Please take the time to review the proposals and leave a comment.



### Season-Setting Meetings

During December and early January, FWP will hold meetings around the state to discuss the draft hunting regulations with interested members of the public. Biologists will present information on the draft hunting regulations approved by the commission. Following the presentations, there will be time for questions and answers.

- [Schedule of season-setting meetings](#)



### Public Comment

**Public comment will be taken through Jan. 21.** Comments can be submitted online via the links below or by email to [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov).

This is a second opportunity for the public to provide input on 2022/2023 draft hunting regulation proposals.

The commission will make final decisions on the draft changes at its meeting in February.

### Background

Earlier this fall, Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists offered science-based regulations proposals that combine some hunting districts, reduce some license and permit types, and eliminate hunting district portions. FWP staff held informational meetings around the state, and the public was invited to submit comments on those initial proposals. FWP adjusted the proposals based on public comment and presented them to the commission.

## COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Statewide proposals

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Deer and elk

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Antelope

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Moose, sheep, and goat

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Mountain lion

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Upland game bird and turkey

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Migratory bird

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Bison

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)



Black bear

[COMMENT ONLINE >](#)





#### Related Documents:

- [MAP: Region 1 Proposed 2022-2023 Deer and Elk Hunting Districts \(PDF\)](#)
- [Draft Region 1 2022 Deer, Elk Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Region 1 Elk Master List \(PDF\)](#)
- [Region 1 Elk Justification \(PDF\)](#)
- [Statewide Deer Master List \(PDF\)](#)
- [Statewide White-tailed Deer Justification \(PDF\)](#)
- [Statewide Mule Deer Justification \(PDF\)](#)

#### Comment online:

##### 1. Contact information: (optional)

Name:

# Meeting outline

- Regional proposals (Deer/Elk)
- District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Sheep/Moose/Goat
- Turkey/Upland game
- Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions

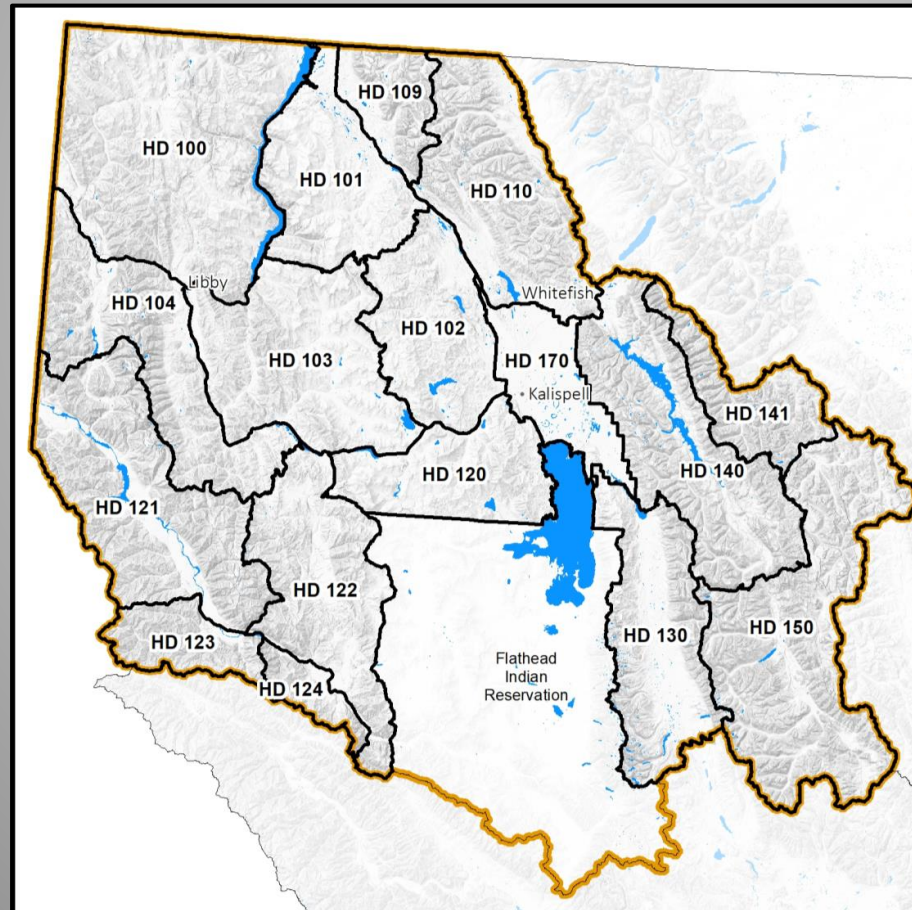




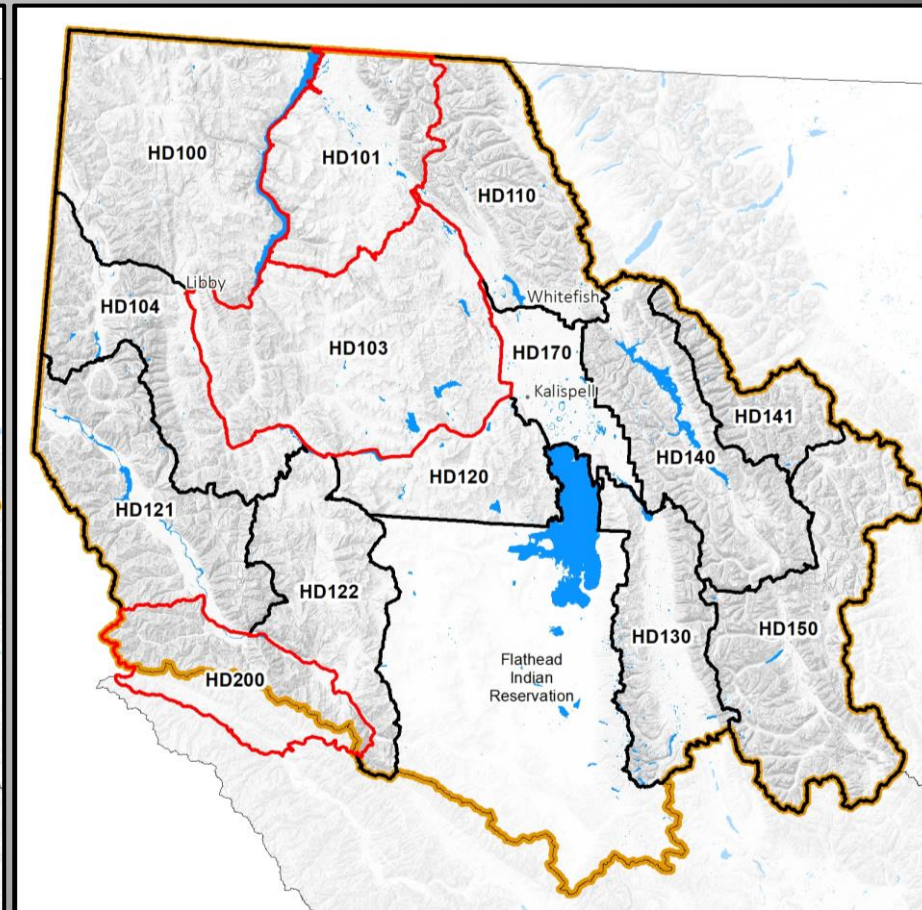
# Combine Hunt Districts - Simplification

- Combine districts with similar elk and deer regulations
  - Where possible
  - Biological data supports consolidation
- Boundary Changes:
  - New HD 101
  - New HD 103
  - New HD 200

Current (2020-2021)



Proposed (2022-2023)

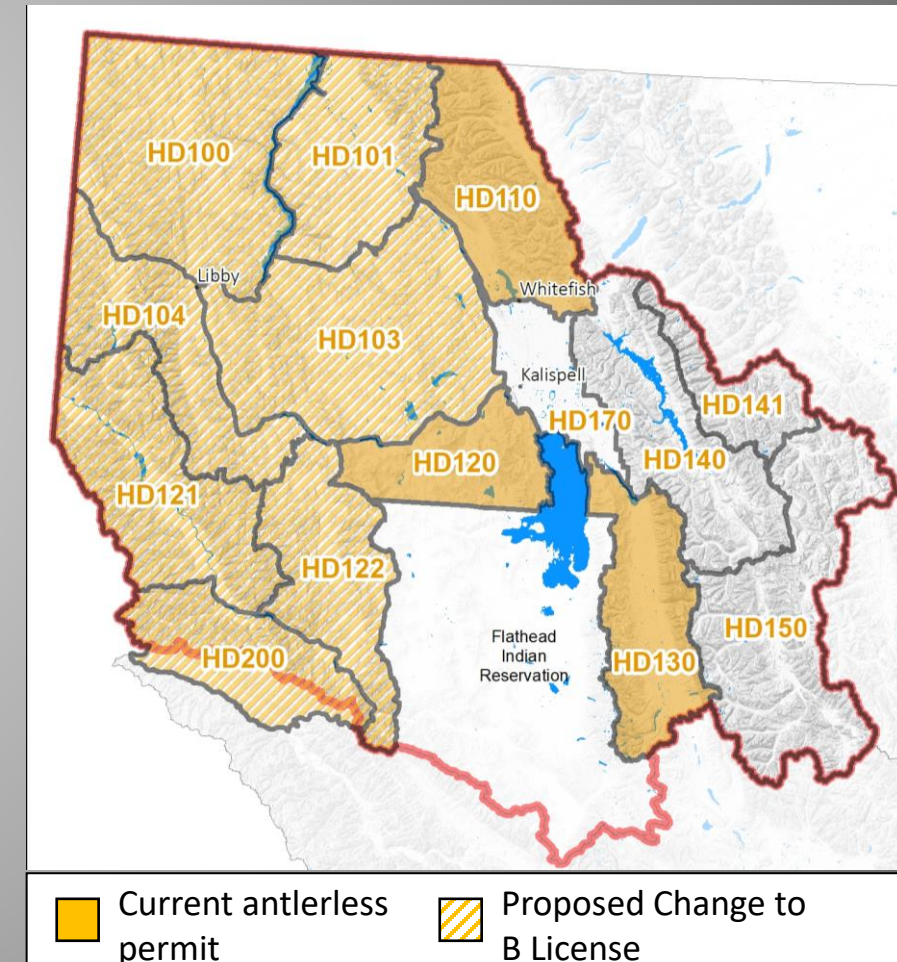


# Regional Proposals – Elk

## Proposed Actions:

- Change antlerless elk permit to antlerless elk B license

Either Sex White-tailed Deer			
HD	Current Permit	Change to B License	Remove Permit
100	✓	✓	
101	✓	✓	
103	✓	✓	
104	✓	✓	
110	✓		
120	✓		
121	✓	✓	
122	✓	✓	
130	✓		
140			
141			
150			
170			
200	✓	✓	



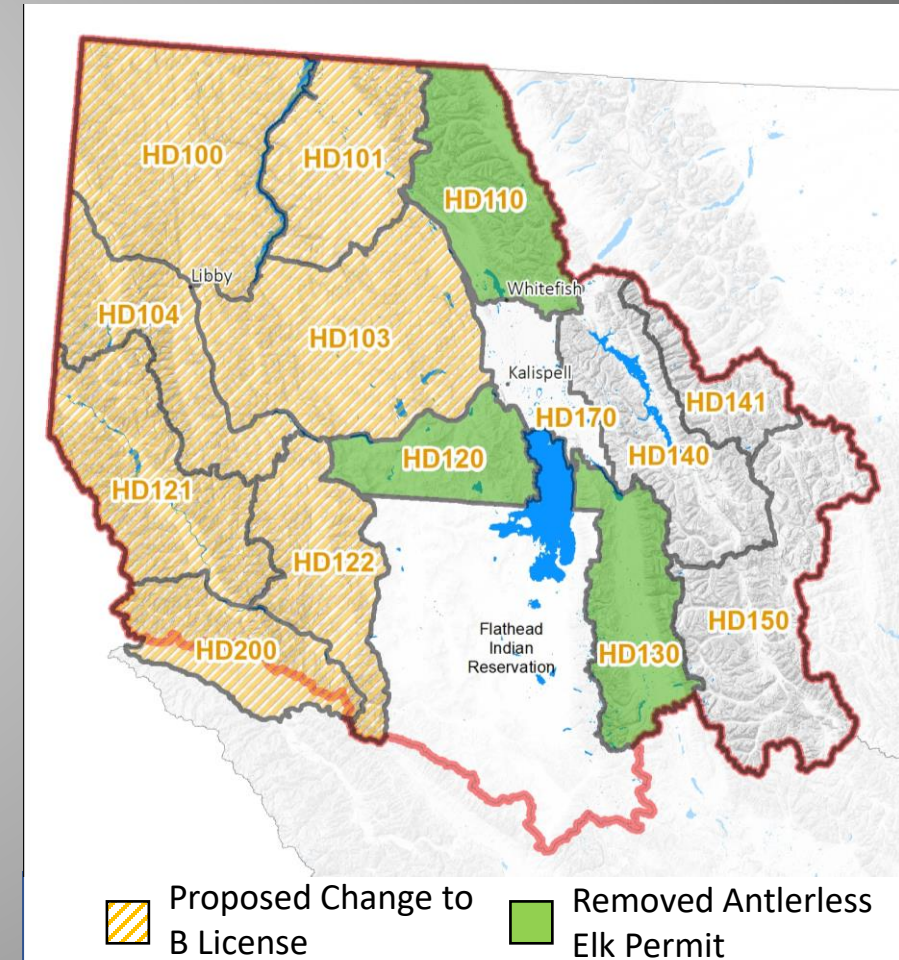


# Regional Proposals – Elk

## Proposed Actions:

- Change antlerless elk permit to antlerless elk B license
- Eliminate antlerless elk permit where less than 25 (HD110, HD120, HD130)

Either Sex White-tailed Deer			
HD	Current Permit	Change to B License	Remove Permit
100	✓	✓	
101	✓	✓	
103	✓	✓	
104	✓	✓	
110	✓		✓
120	✓		✓
121	✓	✓	
122	✓	✓	
130	✓		✓
140			
141			
150			
170			
200	✓	✓	



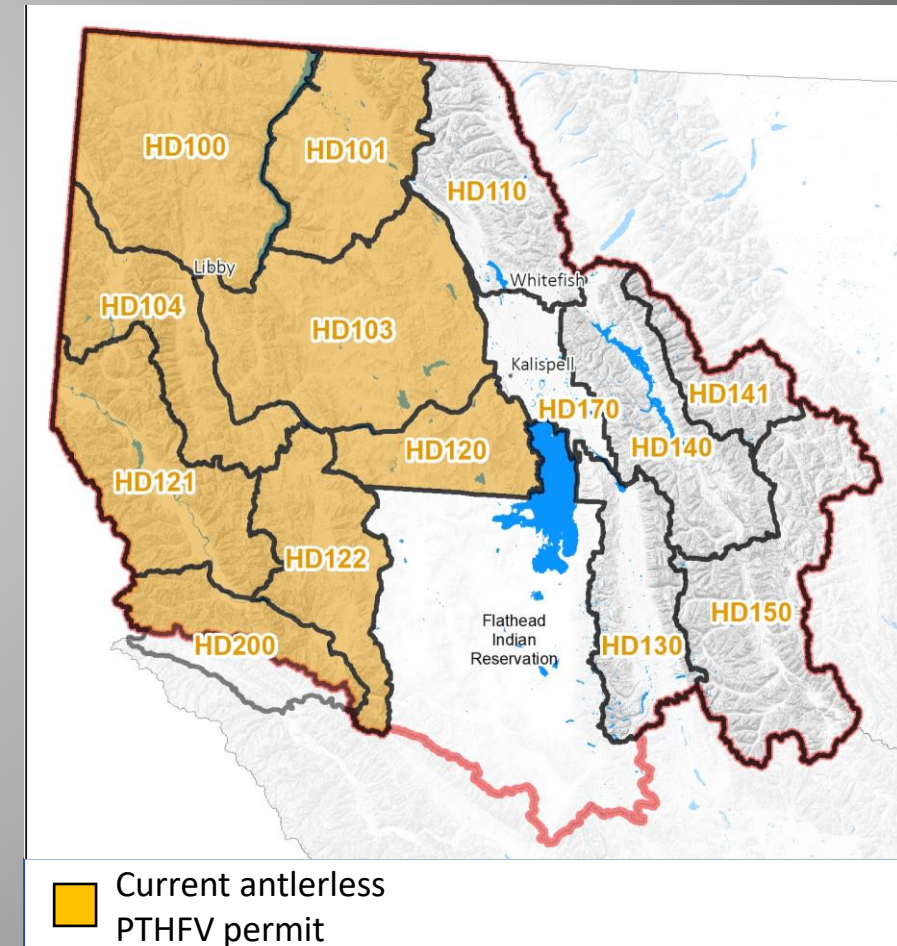


# Regional Proposals – Elk

## Proposed Actions:

- Change antlerless elk permit to antlerless elk B license
- Eliminate antlerless elk permit where less than 25 (HD110, HD120, HD 130)
- Eliminate PTHFV antlerless elk permits and allow antlerless opportunity on general license

PTHFV Elk Opportunity		
HD	Remove PTHFV permit	Add PTHFV on general
100	✓	
101	✓	
103	✓	
104	✓	
110		
120	✓	
121	✓	
122	✓	
130		
140		
141		
150		
170		
200	✓	

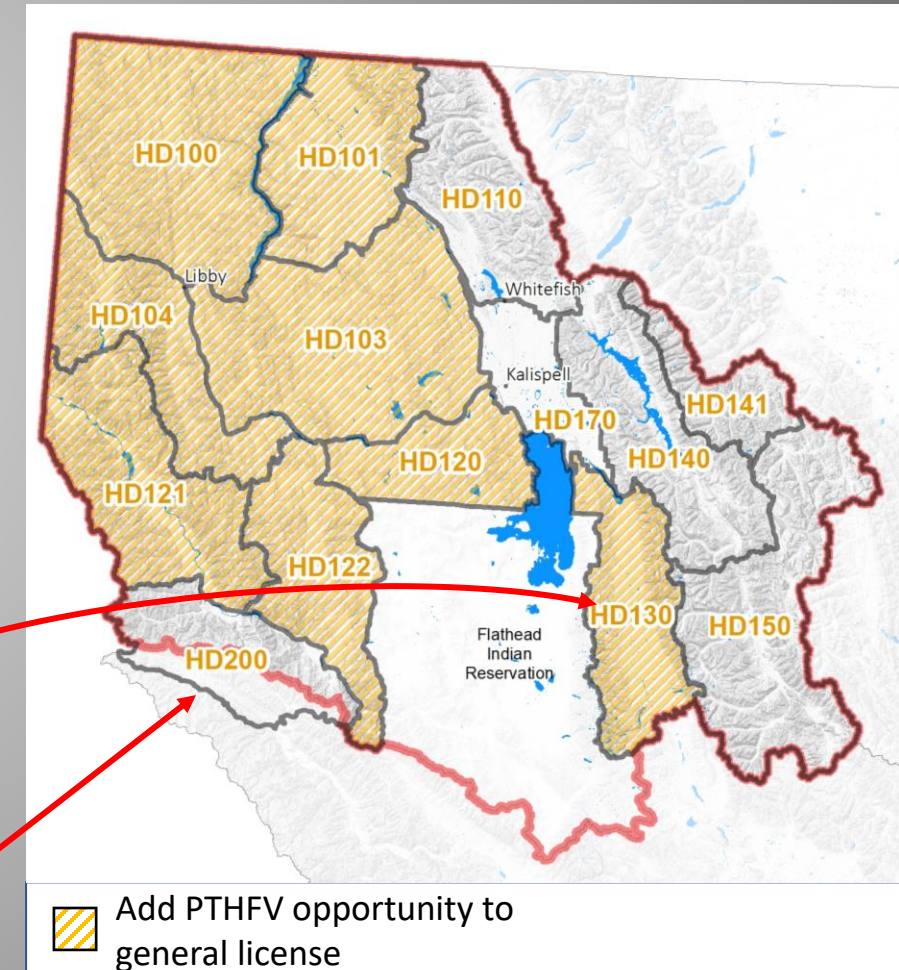


# Regional Proposals – Elk

## Proposed Actions:

- Change antlerless elk permit to antlerless elk B license
- Eliminate antlerless elk permit where less than 25 (HD110, HD120, HD 130)
- Eliminate PTHFV antlerless elk permits and allow antlerless opportunity on general license

PTHFV Elk Opportunity		
HD	Remove PTHFV permit	Add PTHFV on general
100	✓	✓
101	✓	✓
103	✓	✓
104	✓	✓
110		
120	✓	✓
121	✓	✓
122	✓	✓
130		✓
140		
141		
150		
170		
200	✓	



# Elk - Simplified Regulations

## Current (2020-2021)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk Permit: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX
Elk Permit: 1XX-01	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	XX-XX	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	Hunters with a PTHFV. Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX

## Proposed (2022-2023)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Hunters with a PTHFV
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	XX	XX-XX	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	



# Elk - Simplified Regulations

Current (2020-2021)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk Permit: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX
Elk Permit: 1XX-01	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	XX-XX	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	Hunters with a PTHFV. Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX

Proposed (2022-2023)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Hunters with a PTHFV
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	XX	XX-XX	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	

# Elk - Simplified Regulations

Current (2020-2021)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk Permit: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX
Elk Permit: 1XX-01	Antlerless Elk	April 1	XX	XX-XX	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	Hunters with a PTHFV. Holders may not hunt antlered elk in HD 1XX

Proposed (2022-2023)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Hunters with a PTHFV
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 1XX-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	XX	XX-XX	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	XX-XX	

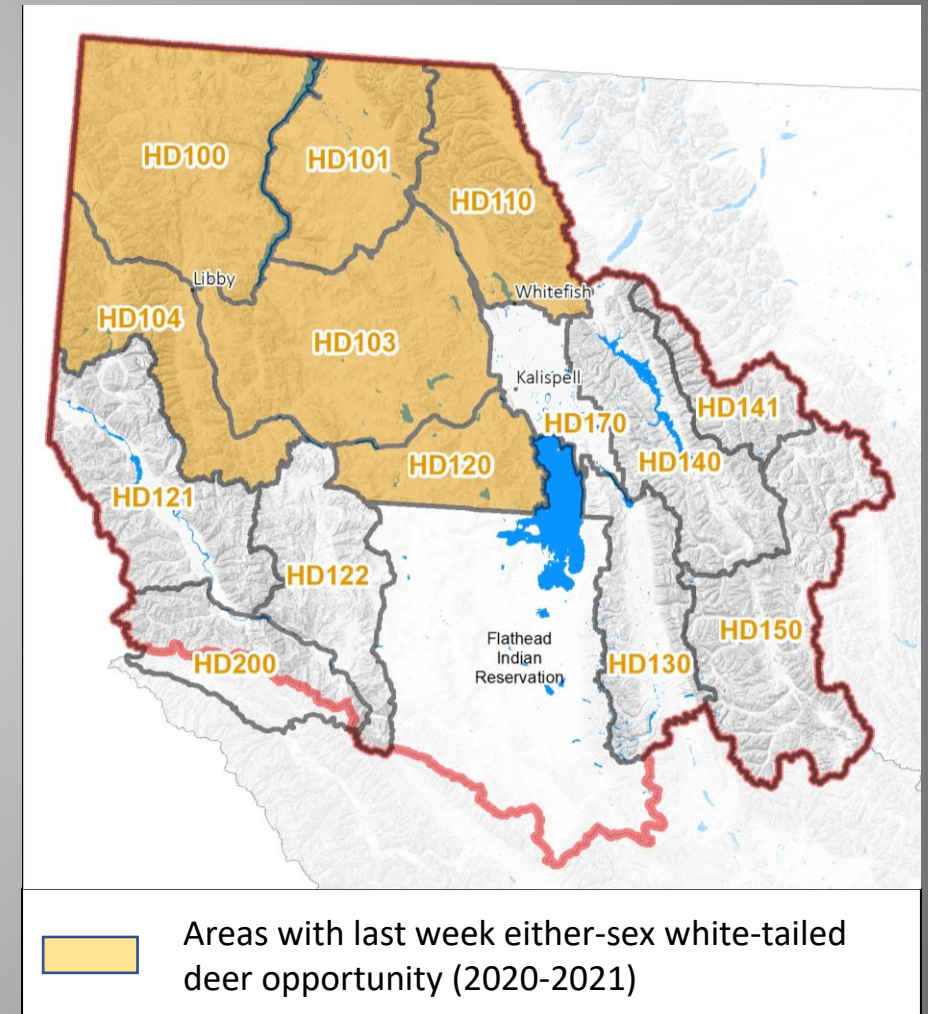
# **Regional Elk Proposals – Questions?**



# Regional Proposals – White-tailed Deer

## Proposed Changes:

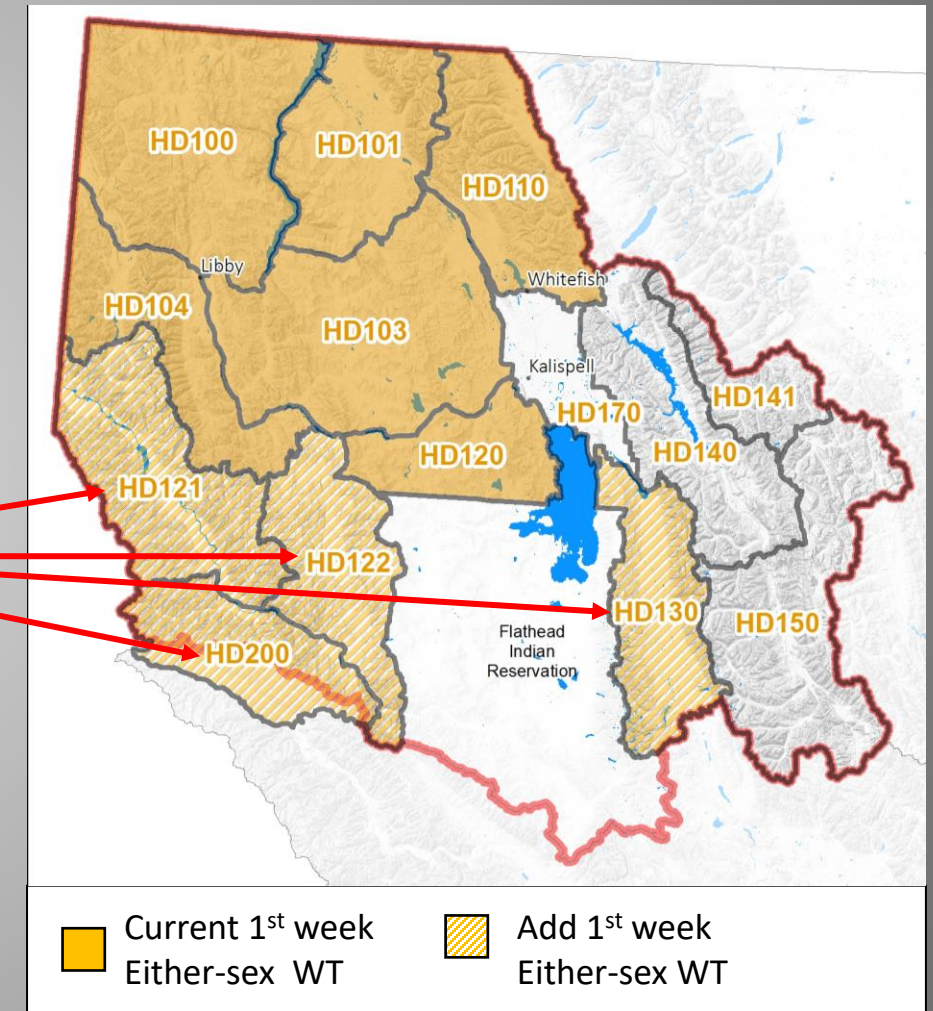
- Eliminate antlerless whitetail opportunity during last week of general season
- Season was formerly either-sex for whitetails on private land, excluding timber company land.



# Regional Proposals – White-tailed Deer

## Proposed Changes:

- Add either-sex white-tailed deer opportunity during the first week of the general season.



# Regional Proposals – White-tailed Deer

Proposed (2022-2023)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>Deer</b>									
General Deer License	Antlered Buck Mule Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Oct 28	-	-	
	Antlered Buck White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Only youth ages 10-15 and hunters with a PTHFV
Deer B License 1XX-00	Antlerless White-tailed Deer	June 1	XXX	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Varies by individual district



# Regional Proposals – Mule Deer

- No Region-wide changes in mule deer regulations
- Begin discussions in 2022 with sportsmen and sportswomen about mule deer management in Region 1



# **Regional Deer Proposals – Questions?**

# Meeting outline

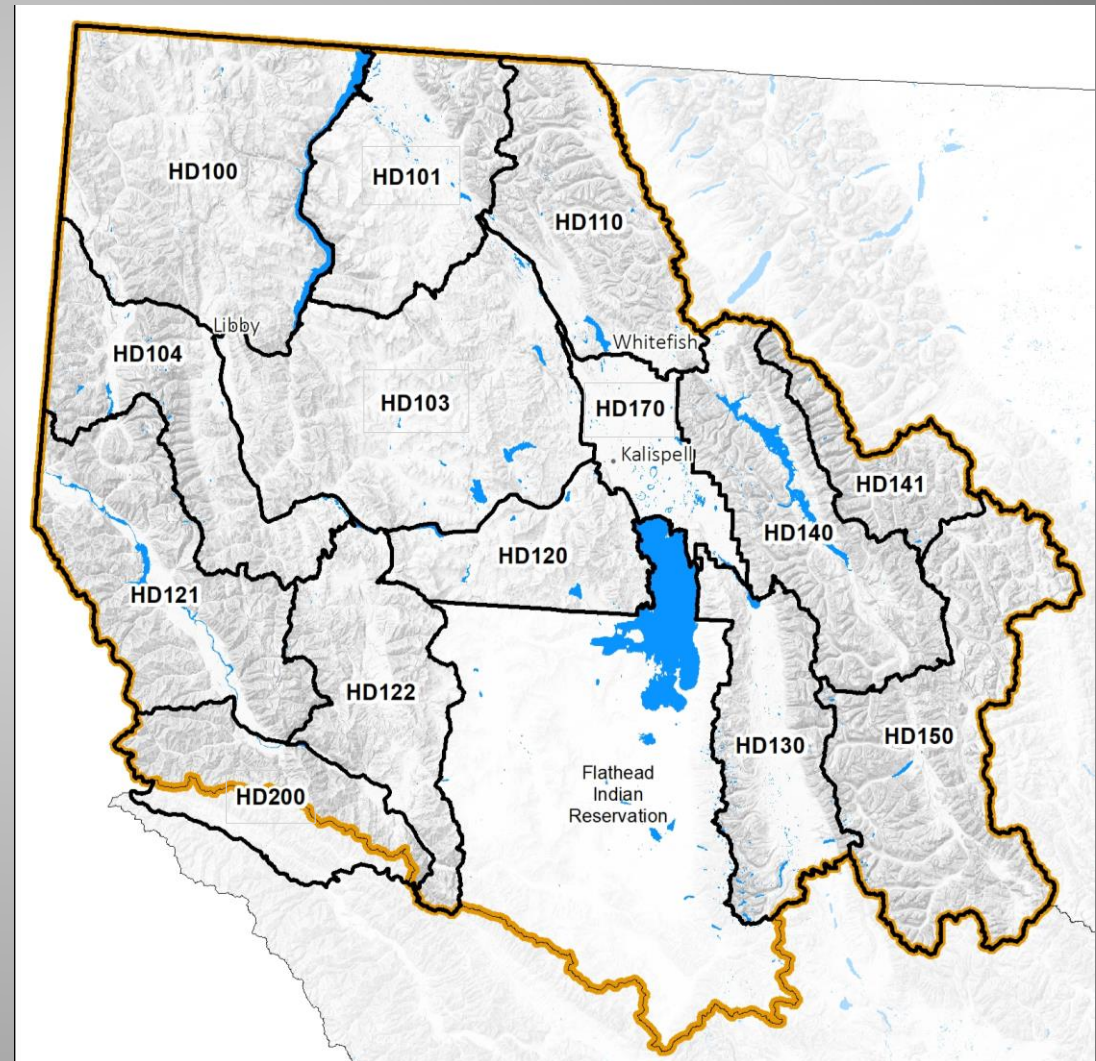
- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Sheep/Moose/Goat
- Turkey/Upland game
- Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions





# District Specific Proposals – Deer & Elk

- District-specific Changes
  - HD 101
  - HD 103
  - HD 200
  - HD 170

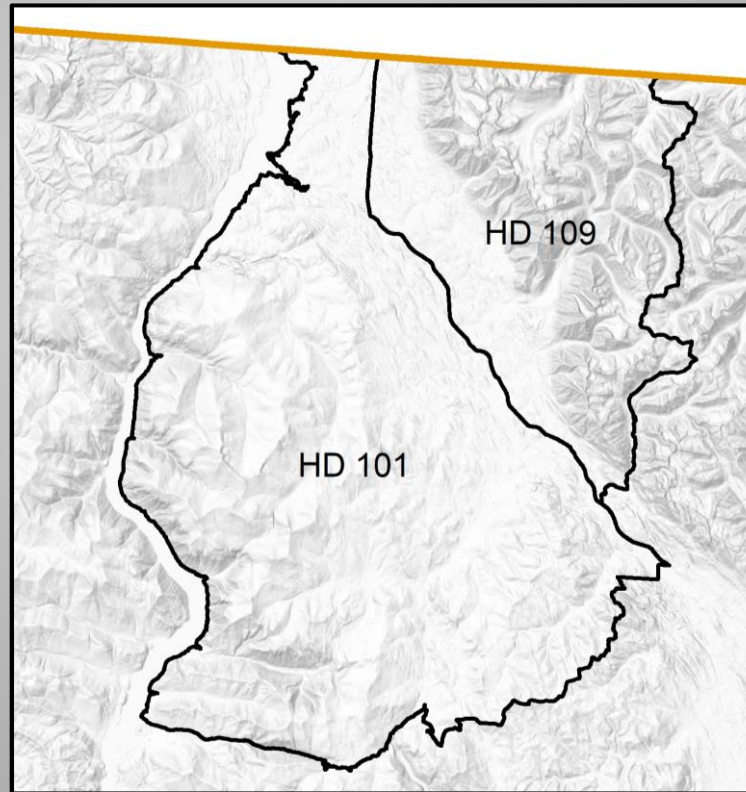




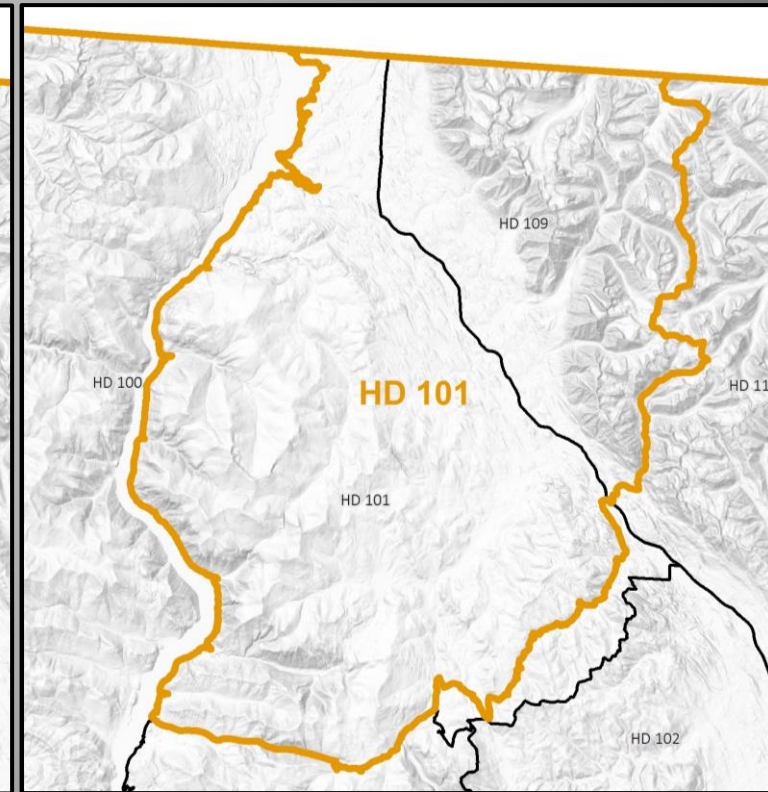
# New HD 101 - Reduce number of districts

- Boundary Change
  - Combine HD 101 and HD 109
- Alter boundary to follow Sunday Creek Road

Current (2020-2021)



Proposed (2022-2023)



# New HD 101 - Deer

## Mule Deer

- 3-week antlered buck general season
- 2-week limited draw antlered buck permit
- 15 permits would be issued

## White-tailed Deer

- Increase the number of antlerless B licenses to 200 (Was 175)
- Only valid on private property

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>HD 101 - Eureka</b>									
NOTE: Boundary Change									
NOTE: Woods Ranch WMA closed Dec 2 - May 15									
<b>Deer</b>									
General Deer License	Antlered Buck Mule Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22- Nov 13	-	-	
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Oct 28		-	
	Antlered Buck White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Only youth ages 10-15 and hunters with a PTHFV
Deer Permit: 101-50	Antlered Buck Mule Deer	April 1	15	-	-	Nov 14-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Permit must be used with a valid General Deer License. Holders may not hunt antlered buck mule deer in any other HD
Deer B License 101-00	Antlerless White-tailed Deer	June 1	200	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Only valid on private land

# New HD 101 - Elk

- Elk
  - Change the former 199-00 antlerless elk permits to 101-00 antlerless elk B licenses
  - 50 B licenses would be issued

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>HD 101 - Eureka</b>									
NOTE: Boundary Change									
NOTE: Woods Ranch WMA closed Dec 2 - May 15									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Hunters with a PTHFV
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 101-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	50	Aug 15-Oct 21	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	-	Nov 28-Feb 15	Only valid on private land. Secure access before applying.

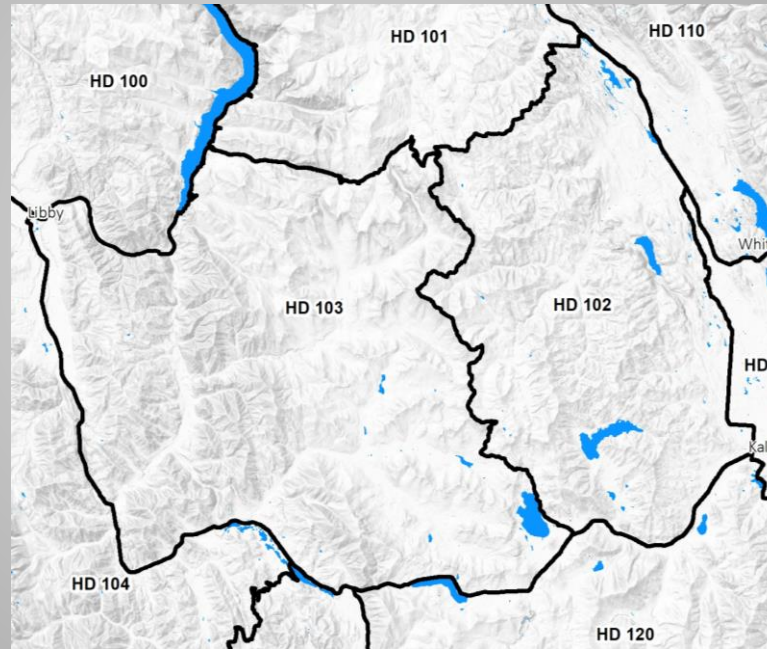


# **New HD 101 Proposals – Questions?**

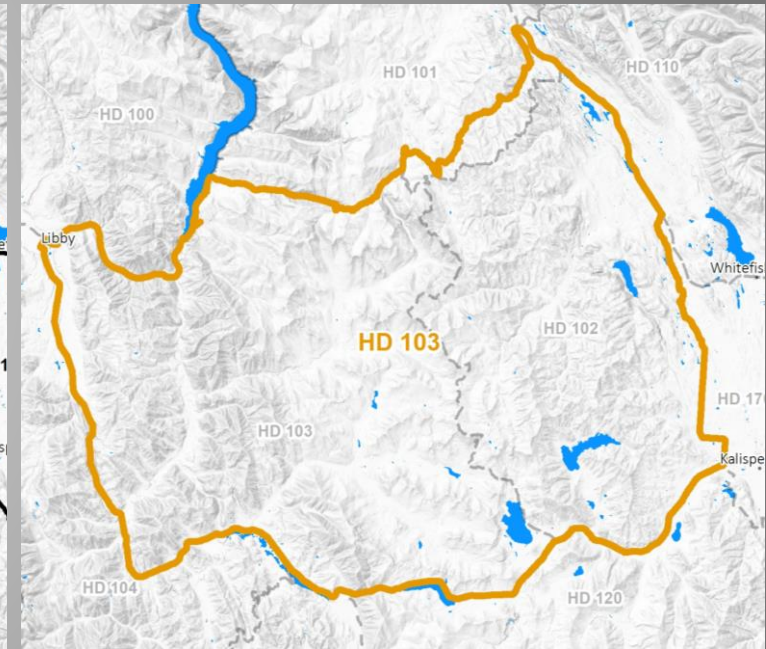
# New 103 – Reduce number of districts

- Boundary Change
  - Combine HD 102 and HD 103
  - Alter boundary to follow Sunday Creek Road

Current (2020-2021)



Proposed (2022-2023)



# New HD 103 Deer

## Mule Deer

- 13 permits would be issued

## White-tailed Deer

- Combined total of B licenses (HD 102 + HD 103)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>HD 103 - East Fisher - Pleasant Valley - Tally Lake</b>									
NOTE: HD 103 Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p XX-XX) Libby Big Game Archery Only Hunting Area									
NOTE: Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge has special youth only hunts during the first week of Archery Only Season and the first week of the General Firearm Season which are restricted to youth ages 12-15 only. Contact Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge for further information 406-858-2216									
<b>Deer</b>									
General Deer License	Antlered Buck Mule Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22- Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Only valid outside the North Fisher Portion, see legal description
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Oct 28	-	-	
	Antlered Buck White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Only youth ages 10-15 and hunters with a PTHFV
Deer Permit: 103-50	Antlered Buck Mule Deer	April 1	13	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Valid in North Fisher Portion. Permit must be used with a valid General Deer License. Holders may not hunt antlered buck mule deer in any other HD
Deer B License 103-00	Antlerless White-tailed Deer	June 1	150	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Deer B License 199-20	Either-sex White-tailed Deer	OTC: Aug 8	Unl	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	One per hunter. Only valid in Libby CWD Management Zone



# New HD 103 - Elk

## Elk

- New HD 103 B license allows for cow harvest in previous HD 102

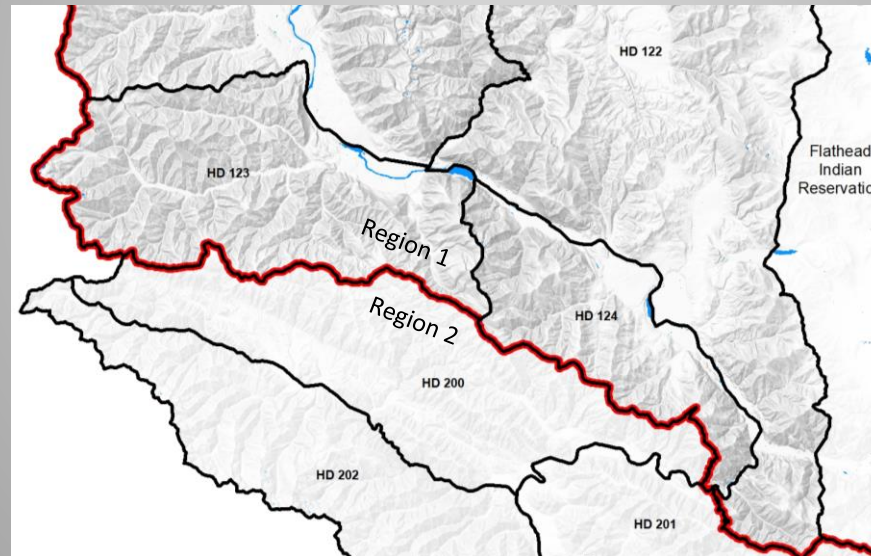
License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1</b>									
<b>HD 103 - East Fisher - Pleasant Valley - Tally Lake</b>									
NOTE: HD 103 Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p XX-XX) Libby Big Game Archery Only Hunting Area									
NOTE: Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge has special youth only hunts during the first week of Archery Only Season and the first week of the General Firearm Season which are restricted to youth ages 12-15 only. Contact Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge for further information 406-858-2216									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	-	Oct 22- Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	Hunters with a PTHFV
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22- Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 103-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	25	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22- Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	

# **New HD 103 Proposals – Questions?**

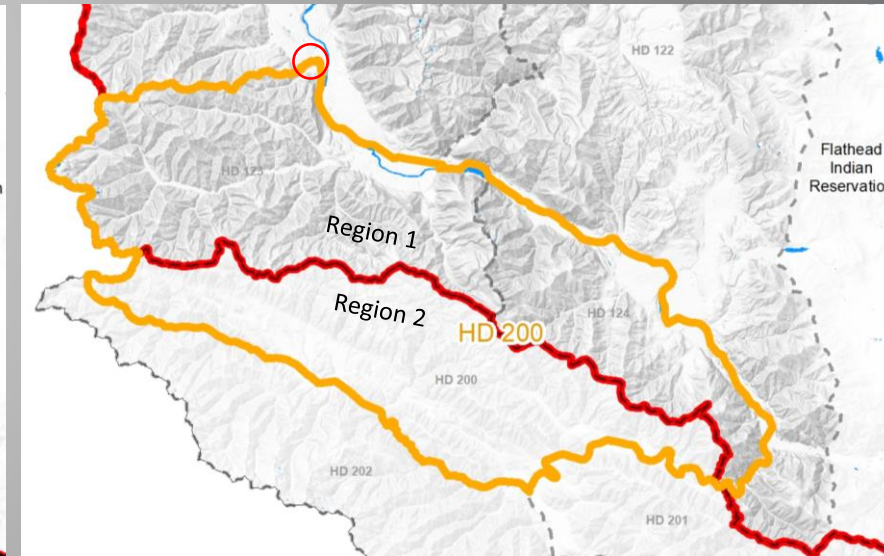
# New HD 200 – Reduce number of districts

- Boundary Change
  - Combine HD 123, HD 124 & HD 200
  - Alter boundary between new HD 200 and HD 121
  - Hunt district crosses regional boundary, but biologist responsibilities will not change

Current (2020-2021)



Proposed (2022-2023)





# New HD 200 Deer

## Mule Deer

- No changes

## White-tailed Deer

- The number of antlerless B licenses will be 75 (HD 123 + HD124 + HD 200 = 100)

License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1/Region 2</b>									
<b>HD 200 - CC Divide</b>									
Note: Boundary Change									
<b>Deer</b>									
General Deer License	Antlered Buck Mule Deer				Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22- Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18		
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer				Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Oct 28			
	Antlered Buck White-tailed Deer					Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18		
	Either-sex White-tailed Deer					Oct 29-Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18		Only youth ages 10-15
Deer B License 200-00	Antlerless White-tailed Deer	June 1	75		Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22-Nov27	Dec 10-Dec 18		

# New HD 200 Elk

## Elk

- New HD 200-00 B license would be 50 tags
- Previous cow permits for HD 123 + HD 124 + HD200 = 80
- No PTHFV on general license

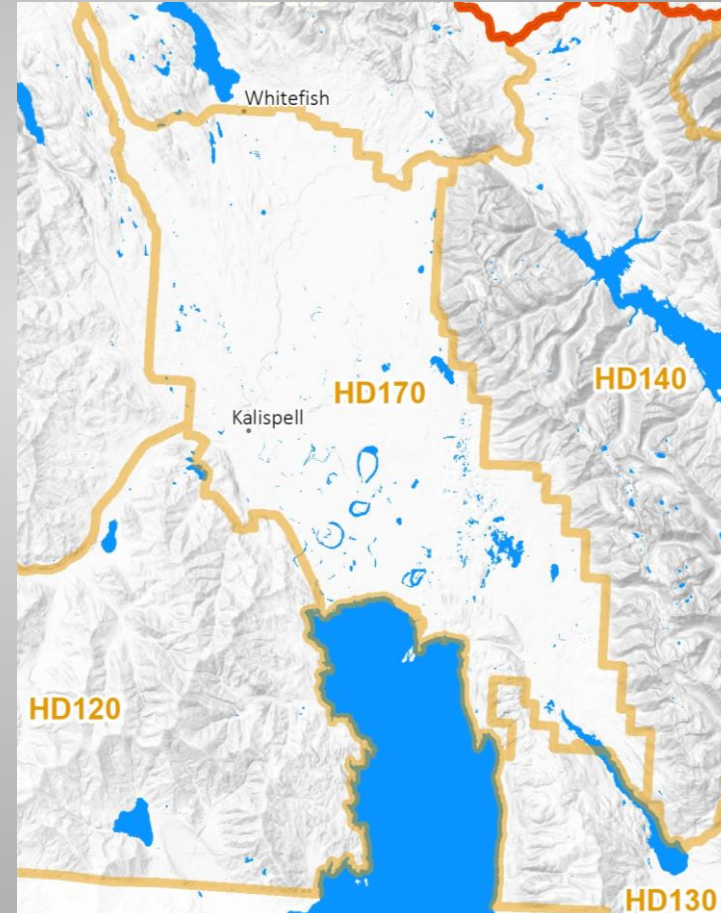
License or Permit	Opportunity	Apply by Date	Quota	Early Season Dates	Archery Only Season Dates	General Season Dates	Traditional Muzzleloader Season Dates	Late Season Dates	Opportunity Specific Details and/or Restrictions
<b>Region 1/Region 2</b>									
<b>HD 200 - CC Divide</b>									
Note: Boundary Change									
<b>Elk</b>									
General Elk License	Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk	-	-	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	-	-	-	
	Brow-tined Bull	-	-	-	-	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	
Elk B License: 200-00	Antlerless Elk	June 1	50	-	Sep 03-Oct 16	Oct 22 - Nov 27	Dec 10-Dec 18	-	

# **New HD 200 Proposals – Questions?**



# HD 170 – General Housekeeping

- Remove either-sex mule deer opportunity during general season.
- New regulation would be antlered-buck only



# **HD 170 – Questions?**

# Meeting outline

- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Sheep/Moose/Goat
- Turkey/Upland game
- Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions





# Black Bear – Simplify Regulations

- Boundary Changes
- Season Dates
- Spring Hound Season
- Tagging

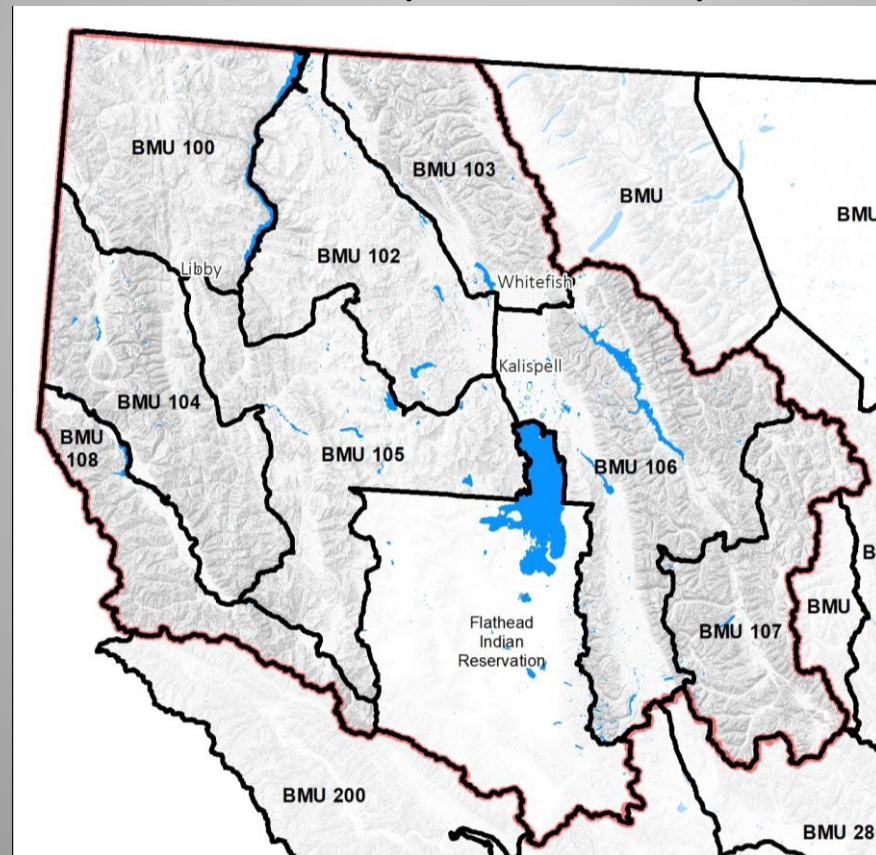




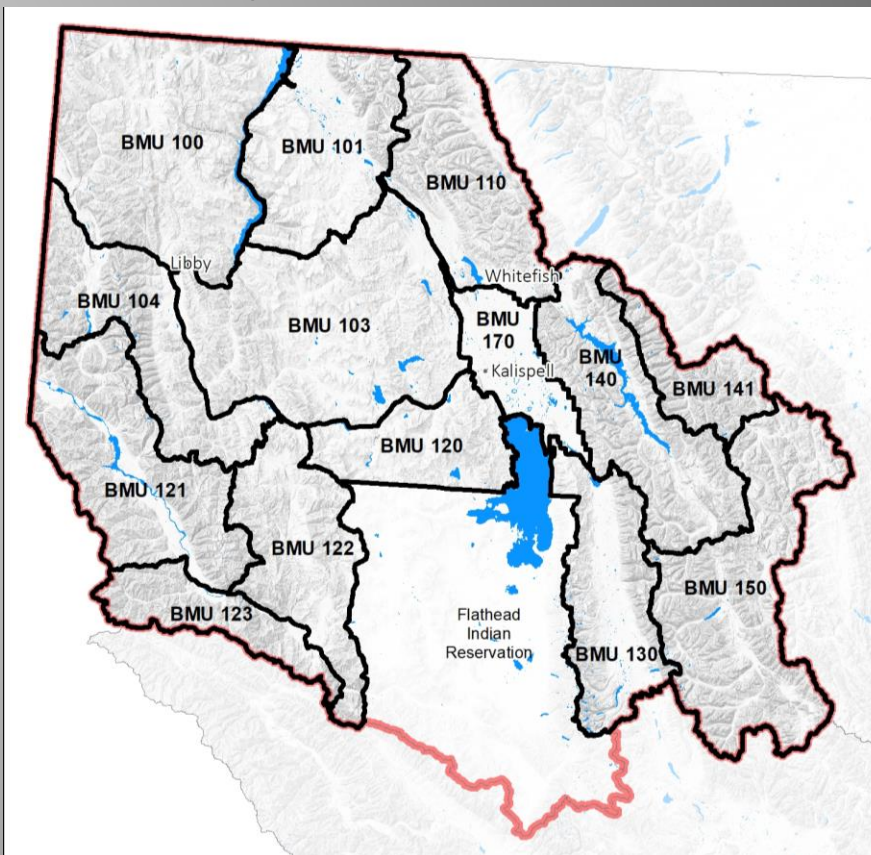
# Black Bear – Regulations Simplification

- Boundary Change
  - Align black bear management units (BMUs) with elk/deer hunting districts
- Exception - New elk/deer HD 200
  - Create BMU 123 (Region 1 portion of elk/deer HD 200)

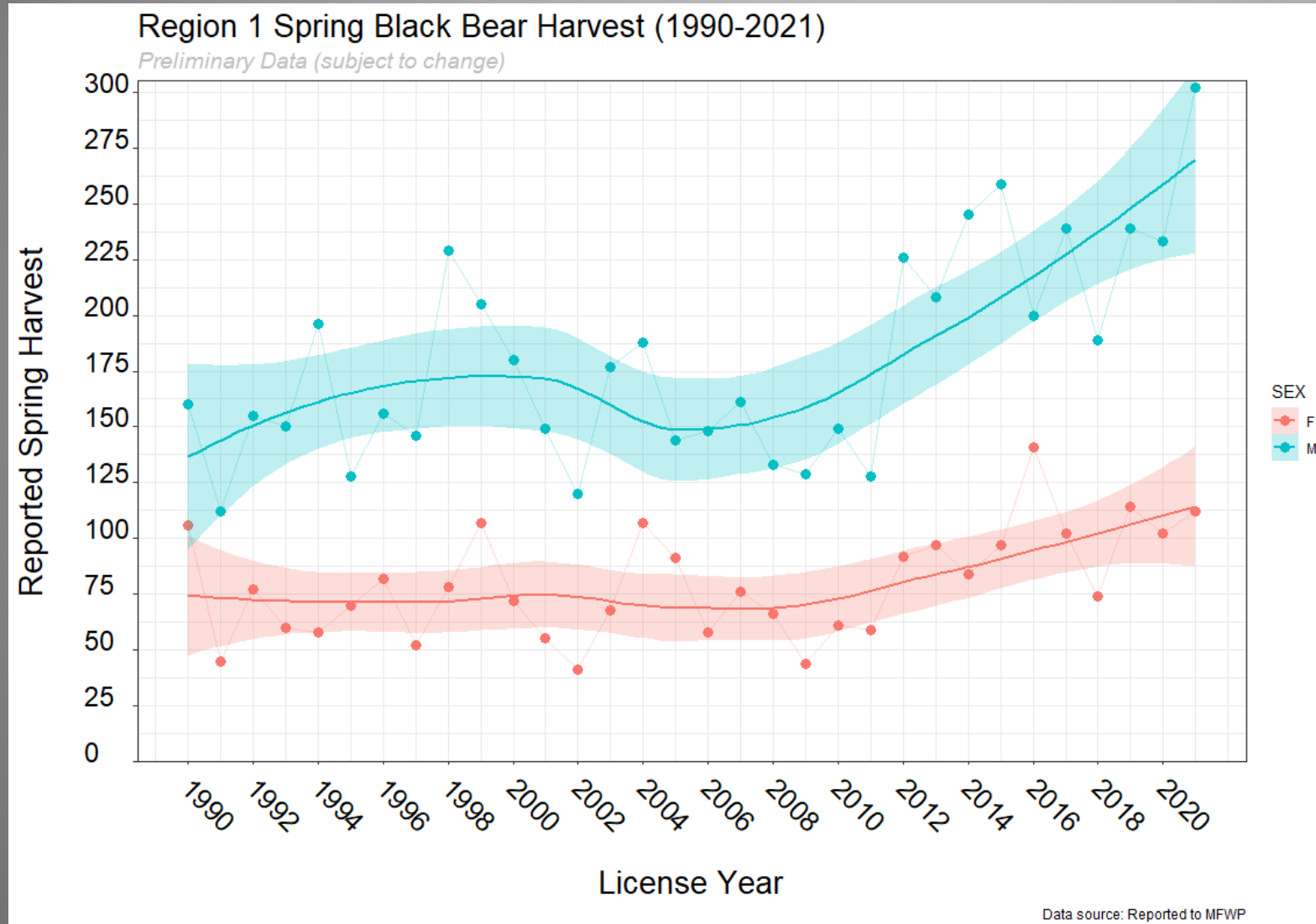
Current (2020-2021)



Proposed (2022-2023)



# Spring Black Bear – Harvest History



Region 1 - 2021 Spring Reported<sup>‡</sup> Harvest

Data Preliminary and subject to change

New BMU	F	M
100	9	28
101	8	10
103	21	45
104	8	14
110	3	28
120	6	5
121	13	49
122	23	37
130	7	19
140	4	29
141	0	5
150	0	1
170	1	5
200*	5	15

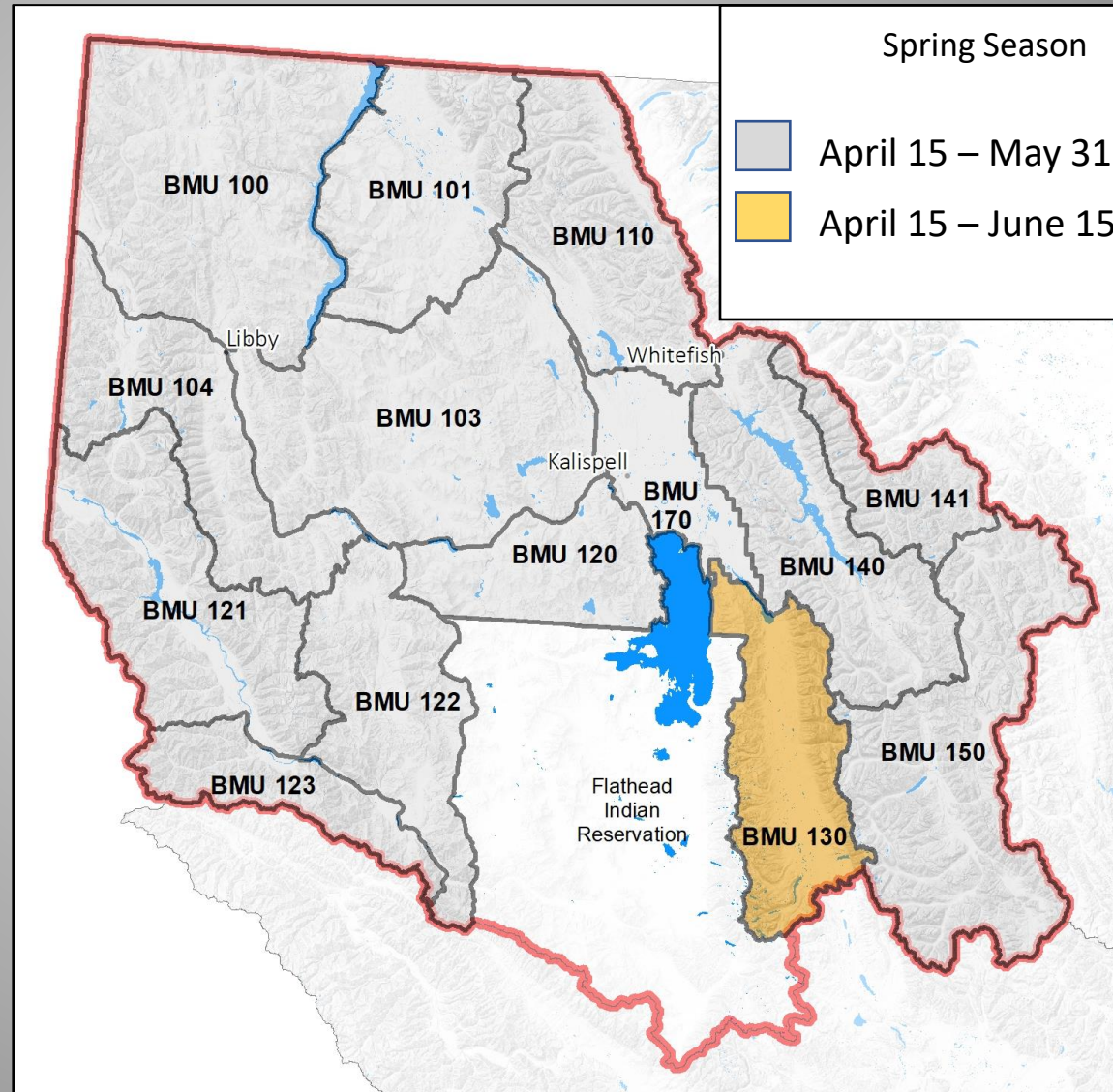
\* only portion within Region 1

<sup>‡</sup> only includes valid harvest locations



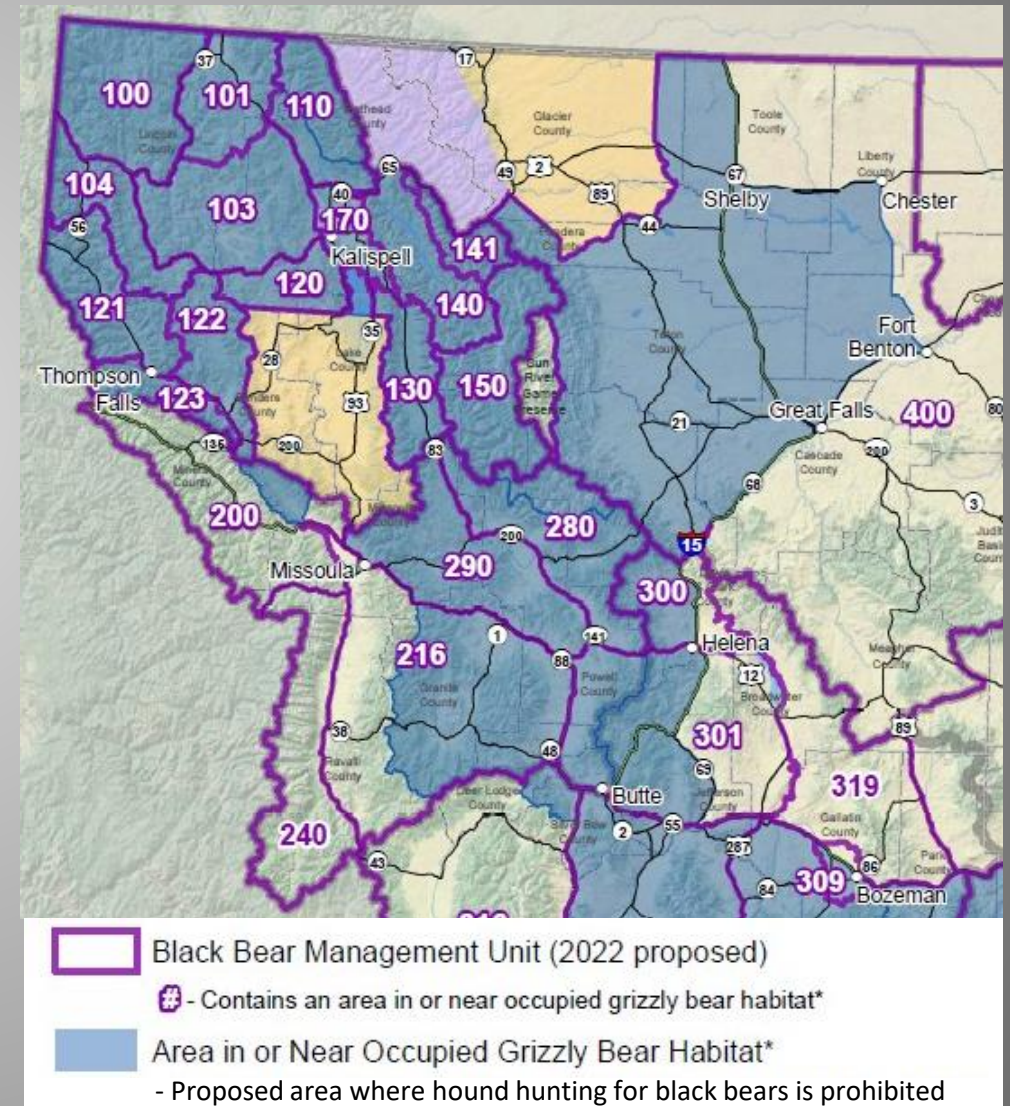
# Black Bear – Season Structure

- Season Structure
  - Change season date for HD 130
    - April 15 – June 15



# Black Bear – Spring Hound Season

- Offer spring hound hunting season in areas unoccupied by grizzly bears
- Non-resident hound licenses (D-4 license) would be allocated among open districts
- Seeking comment on where hound hunting could occur - considering grizzly bear occupancy and ESA definition of “Take”
  - *Take – “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.”*





# Black Bear – Change Harvest Reporting

- Eliminate:
  - Requirement to present harvested bears with FWP staff
  - Need for hide seal/pelt tag
- Add:
  - Mandatory reporting –call in
  - Mandatory submission of tooth by hunter



# Black Bear – Harvest Reporting

- Justifications for mandatory tooth submission:
  - Age & Sex information is important to bear management
    - Evaluating a better method for estimating population status
    - Utilize Age and Sex harvest data to support
  - Only a small % of harvested bear sex misidentified by hunters.
    - Miss-ID typically females as males
    - Can be accounted for when evaluating data
  - Demonstrated success elsewhere – other states



# **Black Bear Proposals – Questions?**



# Meeting outline

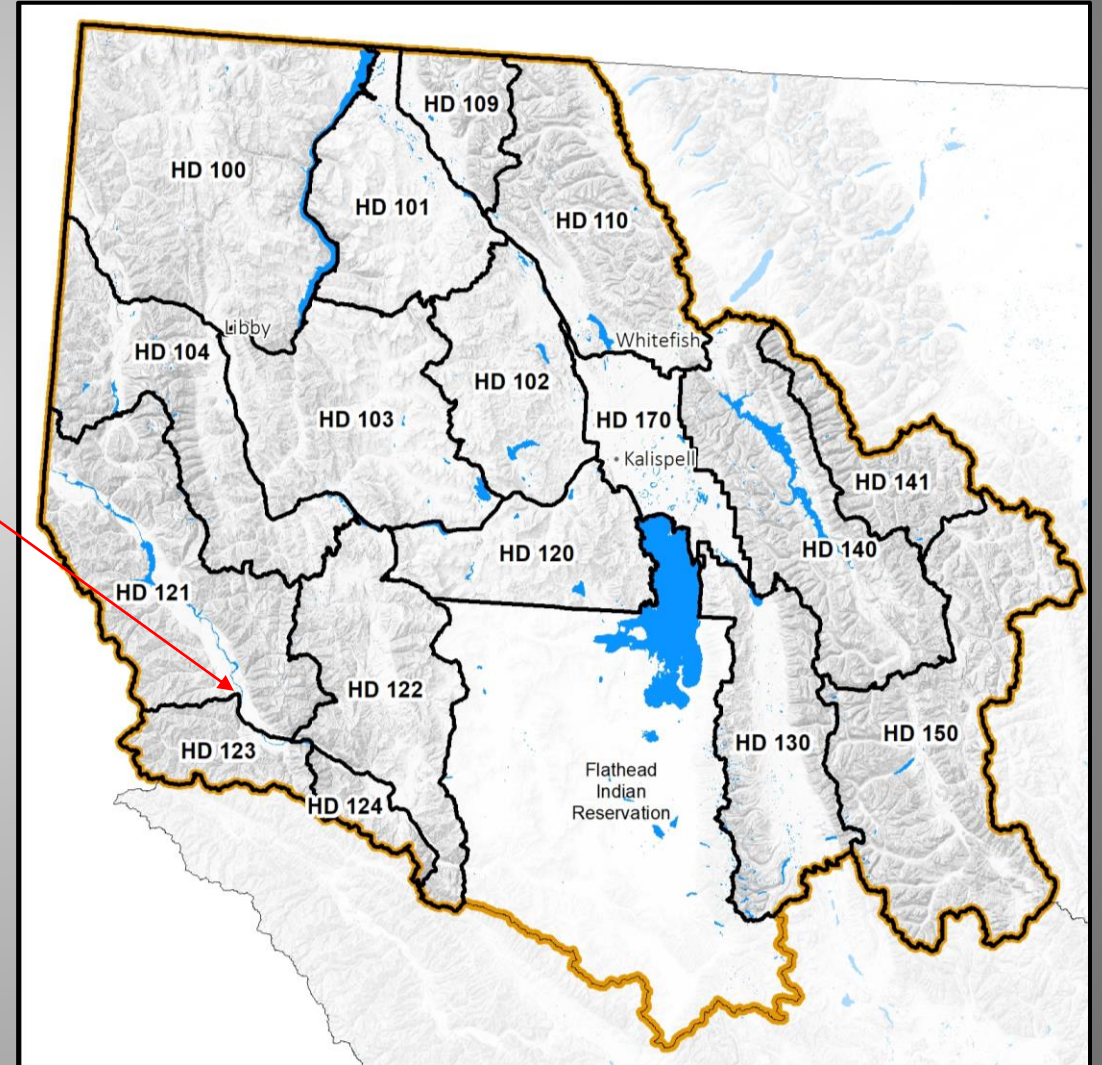
- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- ✓ Mountain Lion
- Sheep/Moose/Goat
- Turkey/Upland game
- Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions



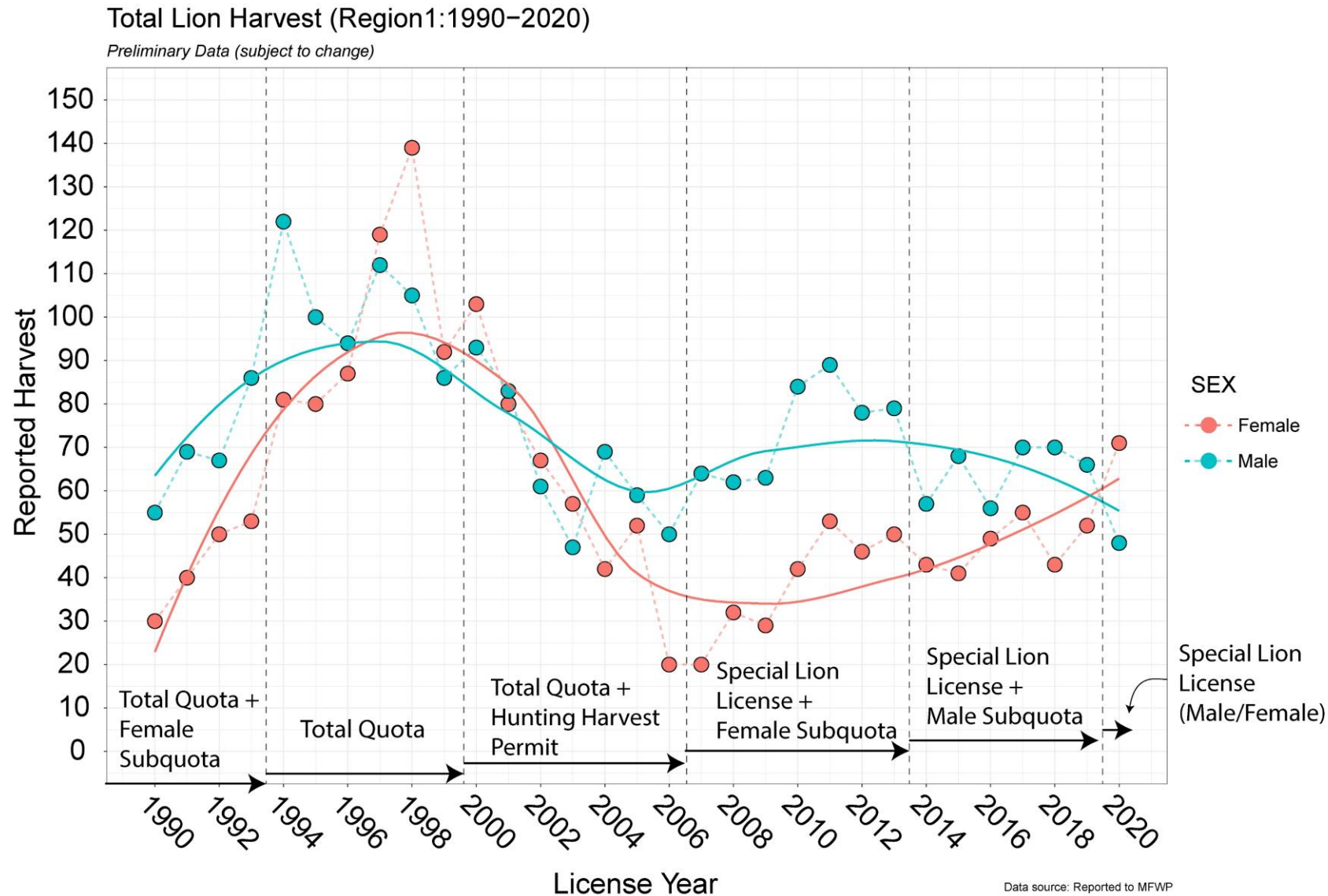


# Mountain Lion

- No Proposed Boundary Changes
  - Exception - HD 121/HD 123
    - Change boundary from USFS trail that no longer exists to Sievers Ridge



# Mountain Lion – Region 1 History





# Mountain Lion

- Season Structure:
  - Seeking comment on season types for statewide consideration.
  - Different lion management units could utilize 1 of 2 options:
    - **Option 1:** Quota system that would close when quota is met.
    - **Option 2:** Hybrid system that uses a permit for early portion of the season and a quota for the remainder if the quota isn't met.



# **Mountain Lion Proposals – Questions?**



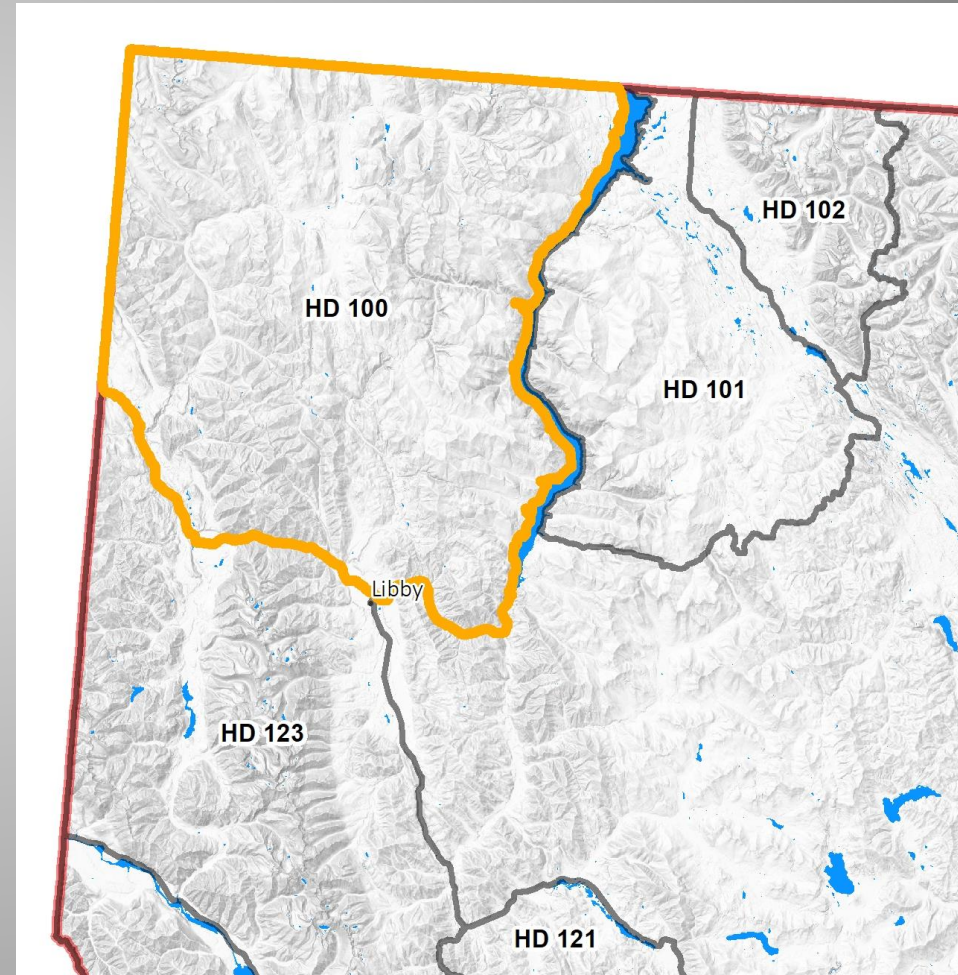
# Meeting outline

- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- ✓ Mountain Lion
- ✓ Sheep/Moose/Goat
  - Turkey/Upland game
  - Statewide elk
  - Summary/Questions



# Bighorn Sheep Proposals

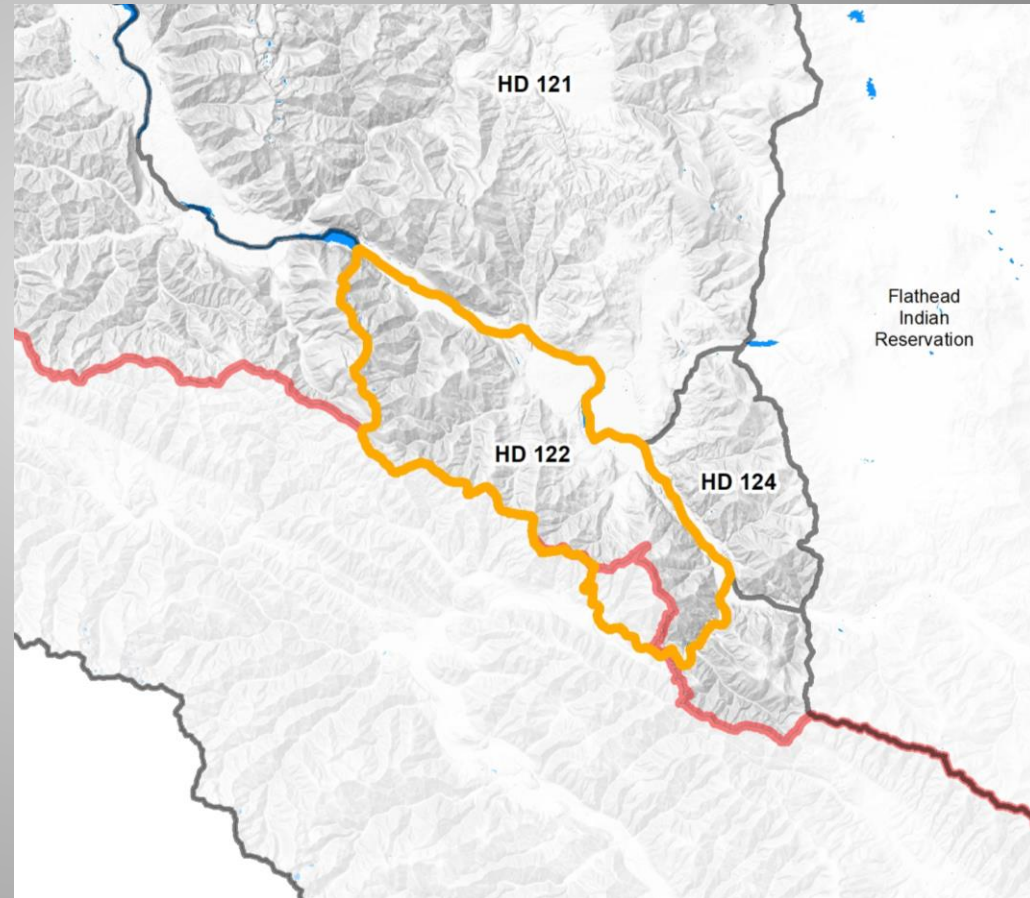
- HD 100
  - Increase the number of either-sex licenses from 4 to 5
  - Change the quota range from 1-5 to 1-10
- History
  - 2018 - approx. 120 sheep
  - 2020 - approx. 135 sheep
  - High Ram/Ewe Ratios
  - Age of harvested Ram > 6.5yrs.





# Bighorn Sheep Proposals

- HD 122
  - Create one ram-only license
  - Establish a quota range of 1-5
- History
  - Closed to harvest since 2015
  - A sheep augmentation in 2018: 20 sheep released in Dragonfly creek

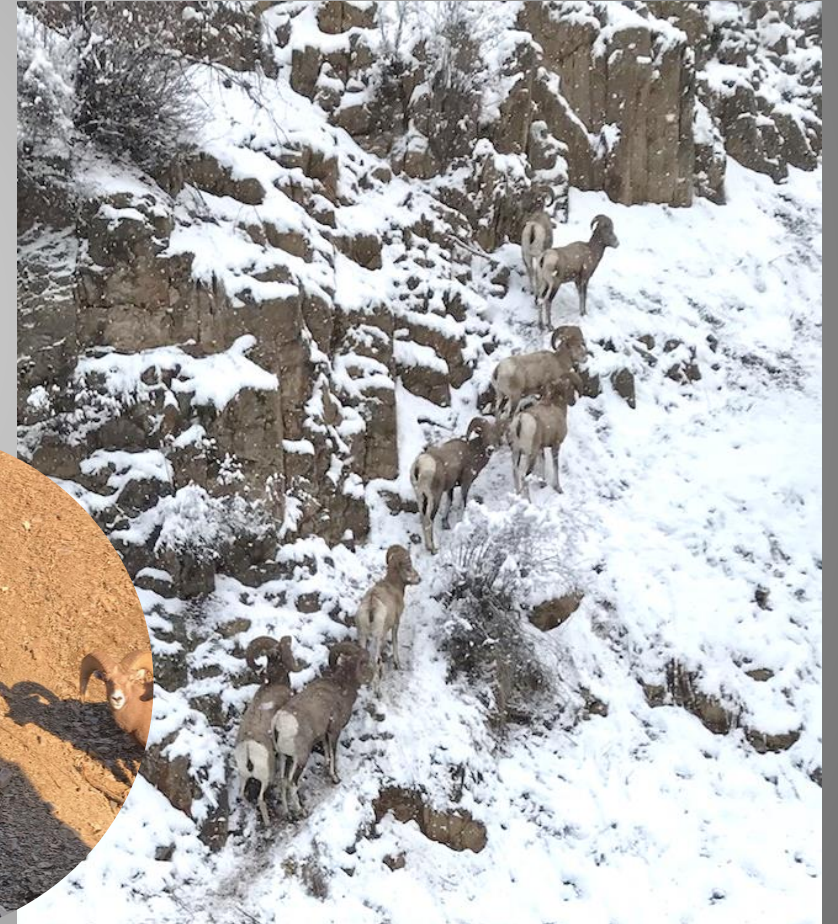


# Bighorn Sheep Proposals

- HD 122

Spring Surveys: Clark Fork Cut-off (HD 122)						
Survey Year	Total all	Total Ewes	Total Lambs	Total Rams	Lambs per 100 Ewes	Rams per 100 Ewes
2012	112	66	15	31	23	47
2013	87	51	16	20	31	39
2014	36	8	4	24	50	300
2015	18	6	2	10	33	167
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	60	35	6	19	17	54
2019	67	33	12	22	36	67
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021*	64	33	8	23	24	70
* 8 Rams were observed during subsequent ferry over 122 the day after survey that were not counted and are not included in this table (4 Class II and 4 Class III)						

Pictures of HD122 rams during 2021





# **Bighorn Sheep Proposals – Questions?**

# Meeting outline

- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- ✓ Mountain Lion
- ✓ Sheep/Moose/Goat
- ✓ Turkey/Upland game
- Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions



# Turkey and Upland Game

- Turkey
  - Adjust spring turkey season dates from April 10-May 16 to April 15 – May 31.
    - 2020 season dates were April 11- May 17
  - Allow use of air rifle as legal means of take during the fall season.
    - Air rifles may be a .177 caliber air rifle shooting a pba pellet at least 1,250 feet per second or a .22 caliber air rifle shooting a pba pellet at least 950 feet per second
- Pheasant, partridge, sharp-tailed grouse and mountain grouse
  - Extend season end date to January 31.
    - Currently ends January 1
  - Allow use of air rifle as legal means of take of mountain grouse during the fall season.
    - Air rifles may be a .177 caliber air rifle shooting a pba pellet at least 1,250 feet per second or a .22 caliber air rifle shooting a pba pellet at least 950 feet per second

# **Turkey and Upland Game Questions?**



# Meeting outline

- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- ✓ Mountain Lion
- ✓ Sheep/Moose/Goat
- ✓ Statewide elk
- Summary/Questions



# Statewide Elk Archery Proposal

## Archery-only permit proposal

Unbundle and remove the 900-20 archery-only either-sex permits in HDs 401, 403, 411, 412, 426, 447, 450, 455, 500, 502, 510, 511, 520, 530, 570, 575, 580, 590, 701, 702, 704, and 705.

Make those hunting districts or combination of hunting districts either general season or unlimited archery-only permits as follows (note, some of these hunting districts are new):

- HD 401: general license
- HD 403: general license
- HDs 411/412: unlimited archery-only permits
- HD s 417/426: unlimited archery-only permits
- HD 447: unlimited archery-only permits
- HD 450: general license
- HD 455: unlimited archery-only permits
- New proposed HD 515: general license
- HDs 502/new proposed 535/new proposed 555/590/existing portion of 701: unlimited archery-only permits
- HD 575: general license
- HD 580: general license
- HDs 702/704/705: unlimited archery-only permits

# Statewide Antlerless Elk B-licenses

## Antlerless B license proposal

The commission proposes to add a new statewide, unlimited antlerless B license valid on private land in elk hunting districts that are greater than 200% above objective. These licenses would be available over the counter and would be valid during any open elk season in those districts. These licenses would be valid through Feb. 15.

For 2022, the hunting districts these licenses would be available for are:

- HD 260
- HD 411/535 (new)
- HD 417
- HD 426
- HD 450
- HD 515 new
- HD 575
- HD 580
- HD 590
- HD 690
- HD 700
- HD 702/704/705



# Statewide Either-sex Permit Proposals

## Either-sex elk permit proposal

In hunting districts 411, 417, 426, 535, 590, 702, 704, 705, the commission approved the current season structure but proposed to increase either-sex elk firearm permits by 50% as follows:

- HD 411/new proposed HD 535: 300 to 450 permits
- HD 417: 225 to 340 permits
- HD 426: 60 to 90 permits
- HD 590: 250 to 380 permits
- HDs 702/704/705: 225 to 340 permits

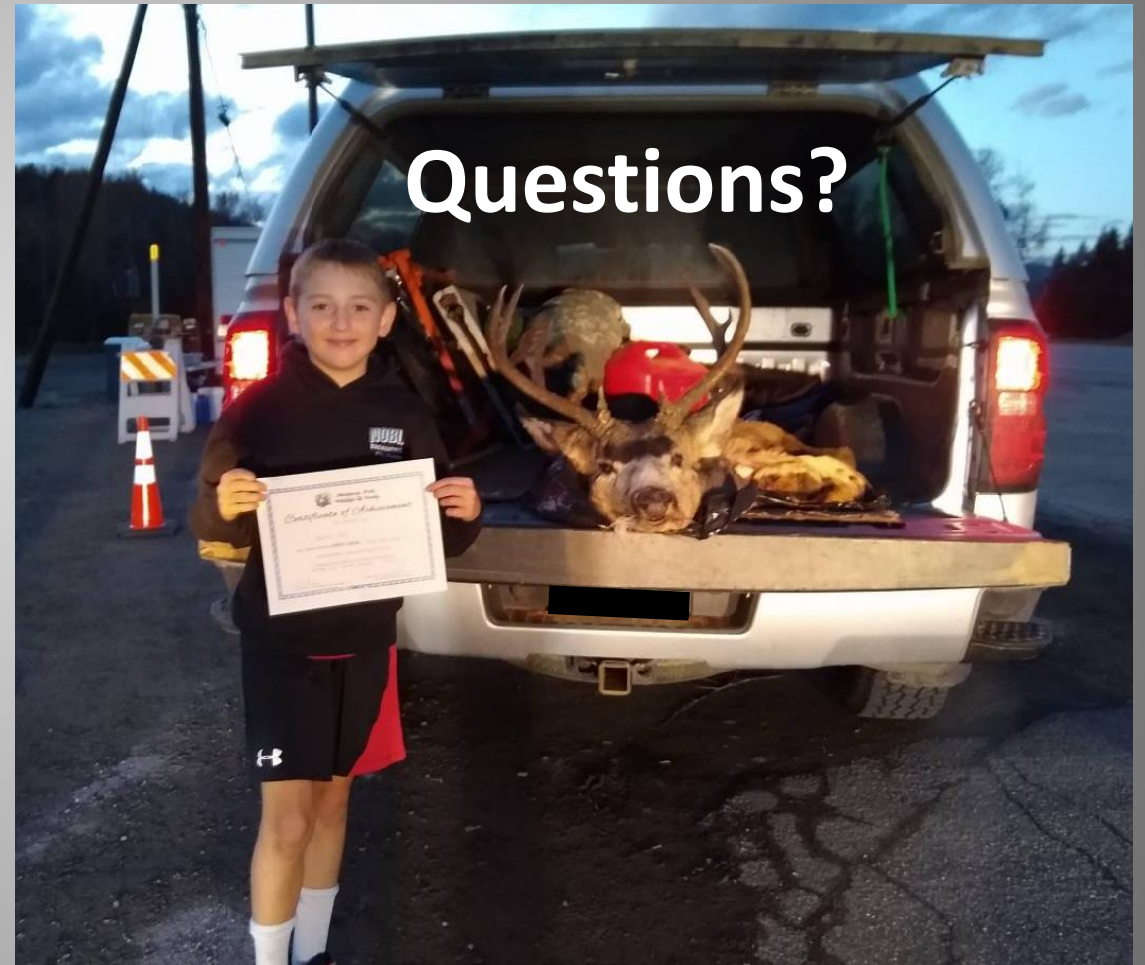
## Elk permit proposal

The commission is seeking comment on a proposal that would make permits for either-sex elk or brow-tined bull-antlerless elk valid for antlered elk within only the designated HD for the period identified on the permit. Antlerless elk hunting will not be limited by the permit. A general license may be used to hunt in any open district during dates outside of that identified on the permit.

# **Statewide Elk Proposals – Questions?**

# Meeting outline

- ✓ Regional Proposals (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ District-level changes (Deer/Elk)
- ✓ Black Bear
- ✓ Mountain Lion
- ✓ Sheep/Moose/Goat
- ✓ Turkey/Upland game
- ✓ Statewide elk
- ✓ Summary/Questions





# Submitting comments to proposals

Comments will be accepted until **Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at 5 p.m.**

How to comment:

- Online: <https://fwp.mt.gov/>
- By email: [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov)